

University of Toronto Faculty of Music

Opera Division

*Opera
Scenes*

Saturday, April 30, 1994
8 pm

MacMillan Theatre

PROGRAMME

The Magic Flute

Scene from Act II

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756 - 1791)

Papageno
Papagena
Spirits

Gary Brown
Cindy Townsend
Siphiwe McKenzie
Diana Kim
Kathleen Flynn

Musical Director
Stage Director
Pianist
Celesta

Sabatino Vacca
James Robinson
Robin Wheeler
Rachel Andrist

In the confusion of preceeding events, the birdcatcher, Papageno, has become separated from his beloved Papagena. He believes that she is lost to him and, in despair, decides to take his life. Three benevolent spirits interrupt his half-hearted suicide attempt and unite him with his future wife.

La Cenerentola

Scene from Act I

Gioachino Rossini

(1792 - 1868)

Clorinda
Tisbe
Cenerentola
Ramiro
Dandini
Alidoro
Don Magnifico

Jennifer Chamandy
Stina Hallberg
Janice Paterson
Robert Herriot
John McGillis
Michael Downie
Peter Wiens

Musical Director
Stage Director
Pianist

Stephen Ralls
Michael Patrick Albano
Robin Wheeler

Dandini, Prince Ramiro's valet, is impersonating his master (and vice versa). They have invited the decrepit old nobleman, Don Magnifico and his two daughters, Clorinda and Tisbe

(the ugly sisters), to a ball at the palace, where the prince will select a wife. The kitchenmaid, Cenerentola (Cinderella), has fallen in love with Ramiro, whom she believes to be the valet; her request to be allowed to go to the ball also is brutally refused by Magnifico. Alidoro, the prince's guardian, suddenly arrives. He has evidence that Magnifico has a third daughter. "Yes, but she died", he counters. Cenerentola (who is the third daughter) tries to refute this; all the characters express their various emotions in one of Rossini's most brilliant ensembles.

Manon

Scene from Act I

Jules Massenet

(1842 - 1912)

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Manon | Debra Dent |
| Des Grieux | Eugene Burke |
| Lescaut | Christopher Ryan |
| Pousette | Rosalba Lamanna |
| Javotte | Linda Karry |
| Rosette | Jacqui Lynn Fidler |
| Guards | Marc Sottile |
| | James Westman |
| Postboy | Dan Chamandy |
| Musical Director | Michael Evans |
| Stage Director | Nancy Hermiston |
| Pianist | Sabatino Vacca |

Manon Lescaut, at the wishes of her family, is on her way to a convent. As she waits for a change of coach at Amiens, she is met by her rascally cousin, Lescaut. Although not oblivious to the girl's charm and beauty, he is drawn to the company of some drinking and gambling friends, leaving her to fend for herself. A young student, the Chevalier des Grieux, arrives on the scene preparing to board the Paris-bound coach. Captivated by Manon, he suggests that they elope together to Paris. Manon is aware that this is a foolhardy and dangerous situation, but her youthful desire for adventure gets the better of her.

INTERMISSION

Rusalka
Scene from Act I

Antonin Dvorák
(1841 - 1904)

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Rusalka | Linda Karry |
| Witch | Kathleen Flynn |
| Watergnome | Oleh Chabursky |
| Woodsprites | Marian Sjolander |
| | Jennifer Chamandy |
| | Janice Paterson |
| Echos | Siphiwe McKenzie |
| | Mari Hahn |
| | Stina Hallberg |
| Musical Director | Michael Evans |
| Stage Director | Nancy Hermiston |
| Pianist | Rachel Andrist |

Rusalka is a version of the legend of Undine, the water-nymph who yearns to be a mortal. As Rusalka gazes sadly at the moon, a trio of Woodsprites tease and tempt the Watergnome from his watery home. When they vanish into the wood, Rusalka confesses to the Watergnome, her father, that she has fallen in love with a handsome Prince who comes to bathe in the lake and that she longs to become a human being and reveal her love. The Watergnome, on hearing her confession, is filled with sad forebodings -- but his warnings fall upon deaf ears. He advises Rusalka to seek the counsel of an old witch, Jezibaba, who lives nearby. Alone, Rusalka beseeches the moon to carry her message of love to the Prince. As the moon fades, she cries out for Jezibaba to help her. The witch is ready and able to do so, but demands a fearful price for her services. Rusalka must be forever silent and should her lover prove faithless she will be doomed forever to the lake and her Prince will also suffer damnation. Rusalka, convinced of the power of her love, agrees to the bargain and, as dawn breaks, she emerges from the cottage -- a lovely young maiden.

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Lucia di Lammermoor

Act II, Scene I

Gaetano Donizetti

(1797 - 1848)

Lucia
Enrico
Normanno

Jennifer Robinson
James Westman
Dan Chamandy

Musical Director
Stage Director
Pianist

Robin Wheeler
Michael Patrick Albano
Rachel Andrist

For many years Lord Henry Ashton has maintained an implacable feud against the family of Ravenswood. He has broken their power, seized their ancient castle -- and still he does not relent. So long as Edgar of Ravenswood survives, Lord Henry knows no peace. Another problem weighs heavily on the war-like lord: a hostile monarch is about to ascend the throne of Scotland. Henry is in danger of proscription unless his sister, Lucy, marries a man with influence at court. Unfortunately, Lucy has fallen deeply in love with Edgar and to Henry's fury, has betrothed herself to him. Edgar's temporary absence from Scotland gives Henry and his henchman, Norman, an opportunity to spread rumours of infidelity. On the day of the planned forced marriage to his wealthy ally, Sir Arthur Buckland, Henry shows Lucy a forged letter from Edgar and convinces the wretched girl of her fiance's unfaithfulness.



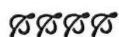
Bluebeard
Act III, Scene 1

Jacques Offenbach
(1819 - 1880)

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|------------|--------------------|
| Boulotte | Diana Kim |
| Bluebeard | Stephen McClare* |
| Popolani | Christopher Ryan |
| Dead Wives | Cheryl Hickman |
| | Jennifer Chamandy |
| | Mari Hahn |
| | Cindy Townsend |
| | Jacqui Lynn Fidler |

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Musical Director | Stephen Ralls |
| Stage Director | Michael Patrick Albano |
| Pianist | Sabatino Vacca |

Offenbach's *Barbe-Bleu* (Bluebeard) was first performed at the Variétés in Paris in 1866. The same illustrious cast which had ensured the phenomenal success of *La Belle Hélène* took part. The legendary Hortense Schneider played Boulotte and Dupuis played Bluebeard. Meilhac and Halévy, librettist of *Carmen*, provided the text for this and fifteen other Offenbach works. Gilles de Resz, a monstrous child-murderer of the fifteenth century, was the inspiration for Charles Perrault's gruesome fairytale, *Bluebeard*. In the operetta, he is a light-hearted libertine. The court alchemist, Popolani, is required to despatch each wife as Bluebeard tires of her. Instead, he gives them soporifics and thus assembles a harem of his own. In Act III, scene 1, Bluebeard brings his latest wife, Boulotte, to be put to death. She confesses to a few casual peccadilloes, hoping that Bluebeard will spare her. Popolani goes through his customary chicanery and Boulotte wakens to be greeted by her five predecessors. She leads them in a cry of "Resurrect" and "Up the Dead and Down the Living!" The operetta has a singularly tidy dénouement: Bluebeard marries off his six wives to the ex-lovers of the Queen of Brittany.



**Graduate Guest - Stephen McClare*
Special thanks to François Speich of the Charlesview Apartments

OPERA DIVISION

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Musical Director | James Fraser-Craig (on leave) |
| Acting Musical Director | Michael Evans |
| Stage Directors | Michael Patrick Albano Nancy Hermiston James Robinson |
| Music Staff | Rachel Andrist Stephen Ralls Sabatino Vacca Robin Wheeler |
| Co-ordinators | Michael Patrick Albano Nancy Hermiston |
| Administrative Assistant | Tina Orton |

PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Lighting Design | Fred Perruzza |
| Director of Operations | Fred Perruzza |
| Stage Manager | *James Livingstone |
| Assistant Stage Manager | *Judie M. Brokenshire |
| Technical Assistant | Chris Brooks |
| Production Assistant | James Fulton |
| Costume Co-ordinator | Diane McCann-Davis |
| Wardrobe Head | Leisa Bellmore |
| Wardrobe Assistant | Martha Paul |
| Sewer | Les Handrahan |
| Wigs | Theatrical Wig Wonders Inc. |
| Makeup Supervisor | Dawn Rivard |
| Assistants | Anne-Marie MacLoughlin Susan Garofolo Mimi Lui |
| Props | Ann Webster |
| Scenic Artist | Richard Mongiat |
| Assistant | Torch McDonald |
| Crew | Rick Giroux, Tim Jennings Brian Kool, Stephanie Lockhart George Milenov, Paul Quesnel, Tania Sclocco |

*by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association



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